



Musicians from the Four Seasons Chamber Music Festival

Thomas Sauer, piano

A member of the Mannes Trio, Sauer collaborates frequently with instrumentalists such as violinist Midori and cellist Colin Carr. He has performed at Oxford University, the Wolf Trap Center, Princeton University, the Portland, El Paso Pro Musica, Seattle, Salt Bay, and Marlboro festivals, and at the Philharmonie in Berlin and the Palais des Beaux Arts in Brussels. He is the director of the Mannes Beethoven Institute.

Ara Gregorian, violin

Founder and artistic director of the Four Seasons Chamber Music Festival, Gregorian debuted with the Boston Pops Orchestra in 1997 and at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall in 1996. A member of the chamber music ensemble Concertante, he has performed throughout the United States, Canada, and China, and at the El Paso, Santa Fe, Cactus Pear, Strings in the Mountains, and Skaneateles festivals. He has recorded for WQXR and NPR.

Colin Carr, cello

Carr, who won the Naumburg Competition, the Gregor Piatigorsky Memorial Award, and the Rostropovich International Cello Competition, has performed as soloist with major orchestras worldwide including the Royal Concertgebouw, the Philharmonia, Royal Philharmonic, BBC Symphony, and the orchestras of Chicago, Los Angeles, Washington D.C., and Montreal. He is a former member of the Golub-Kaplan-Carr Trio.

About the performers

Thomas Sauer, piano

Pianist Thomas Sauer is highly sought after as soloist, chamber musician, and teacher. A member of the Mannes Trio, ensemble-in-residence at the Mannes College of Music in New York City, Mr. Sauer also collaborates frequently with the renowned instrumentalists Midori and Colin Carr. Recent appearances include concerto performances with the Quad-City Symphony; solo performances at Carnegie Hall, Merkin Concert Hall (New York City), and St. John's College, Oxford; chamber music performances at the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society; duo recitals with Colin Carr at the Holywell Music Room, Oxford, and the Wolf Trap Center; duo recitals with Midori at the Philharmonie in Berlin and the Palais des Beaux Arts in Brussels; and performances at the Marlboro, Portland, Seattle, El Paso Pro Musica, Four Seasons, and Salt Bay Chamber Music Festivals.

Mr. Sauer's recording of five Haydn piano sonatas is available on MSR Classics; a recording with violist Misha Amory of Hindemith sonatas is available on the Musical Heritage Society label; a recording with violinist Miranda Cuckson of music by Ross Lee Finney on Centaur Records; and music of Britten and Schnittke with cellist Wilhelmina Smith is available on Arabesque Recordings. In

recent seasons, Mr. Sauer has premiered works by Philippe Bodin, Robert Cuckson, Sebastian Currier, Keith Fitch, David Loeb, Donald Martino, and David Tcimpidis.

Mr. Sauer holds degrees from the Curtis Institute, the Mannes College of Music, and the City University of New York. His major teachers include Jorge Bolet, Edward Aldwell, and Carl Schachter. Mr. Sauer is the founder and director of the Mannes Beethoven Institute.

Ara Gregorian, violin

Equally accomplished as soloist and chamber musician, violinist Ara Gregorian made his debut with the Boston Pops Orchestra in Symphony Hall in 1997 and his New York recital debut at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall in 1996. Gregorian has made chamber music appearances at New York's Alice Tully Hall, Merkin Hall, and Avery Fisher Hall. Additional orchestral appearances have included performances with the Shanghai, Lansing (MI), Pueblo (CO), Michigan State, East Carolina University, and Las Cruces (NM) Symphony Orchestras.

Gregorian is the founder and Artistic Director of the Four Seasons Chamber Music Festival of Eastern North Carolina and has performed at the Santa Fe, Music in the Vineyards, Madeline Island, El Paso, Cactus Pear, and Strings in the Mountains chamber music festivals. He has recorded for New York's WQXR radio station, National Public Radio, and the Kleos label and is a member of the chamber music ensemble, Concertante, which has toured throughout the major cities of the United States and China and maintains residencies at Merkin Hall in New York and at Rose Lehrman Center in Harrisburg, PA

In 1992, Gregorian entered The Juilliard School where he received both his bachelor and master of music degrees. He was concertmaster of the Juilliard Orchestra and studied with Joseph Fuchs and Harvey Shapiro. Gregorian also studied with Robert Mann while pursuing his doctoral degree from SUNY Stony Brook. He has been a member of the violin faculty at East Carolina University since 1998.

Colin Carr, cello

Colin Carr has appeared throughout the world as soloist, chamber musician, recording artist and teacher.

As a concerto soloist, Carr has played with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, The Philharmonia, Royal Philharmonic, BBC Symphony, BBC Philharmonic and the orchestras of Chicago, Los Angeles, Washington, Philadelphia and Montreal. He is a regular guest at the BBC Proms, he has twice toured Australia and has recently played concertos in South Korea, Hong Kong and New Zealand. Last year he returned to the Philharmonia in London and made his debut with the Los Angeles Philharmonic under Mark Elder. This year he toured with Mr Elder and the Halle Orchestra playing Dvorak, Elgar and Walton Concertos. Other highlights included a performance of Dvorak Concerto to close the Prague Autumn Festival and Beethoven Triple Concerto with Sir Colin Davis conducting at the Royal Festival Hall in London.

Recitals have taken him to major cities each season: he regularly performs in London, New York and Boston. As a member of the Golub-Kaplan-Carr Trio he recorded and toured extensively for twenty years and recently formed the new group Sequenza. He is a frequent visitor to international chamber music festivals worldwide and has appeared often as a guest with the Guarneri and Emerson string quartets and at the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center in New York.

His solo recording of the unaccompanied cello works of Kodaly, Britten, Crumb and Schuller received an industry award in the US. The “Bach Suites for Unaccompanied Cello” performed live at Boston’s Jordan Hall (GM Recordings) have been highly acclaimed and the Brahms Sonatas (Arabesque) were released in November 2000. He was also the soloist in Elgar’s Cello Concerto with the BBC Philharmonic on a BBC Music Magazine cover CD.

Carr is the winner of many prestigious international awards, including First Prize in the Naumburg Competition, the Gregor Piatigorsky Memorial Award and Second Prize in the Rostropovich International Cello Competition.

He first played the cello at the age of five; three years later he went to the Yehudi Menuhin School, where he studied with Maurice Gendron and later William Pleeth. He was made a professor at the Royal Academy of Music in 1998 having been on the faculty of the New England Conservatory in Boston for 16 years; in 1998 St. John’s College, Oxford created the post of “Musician in Residence” for him and in September 2002 he became a professor at Stony Brook University in New York.

Carr plays on a Matteo Gofriller cello made in Venice in 1730.